

# DAILY BULLETIN

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## GOVERNMENT, FUTURE “WILL BELONG TO YOU,” BUSH TELLS IRAQIS

### Bush Broadcast to the Iraqi People

The Saddam Hussein regime and its “long era of fear and cruelty” are ending, President Bush told the Iraqi people in a radio and television broadcast April 10.

American and coalition forces are in Baghdad, he said, and “will not stop until Saddam’s corrupt gang is gone. The government of Iraq, and the future of your country, will soon belong to you.”

The president’s message, which was recorded April 8 as Bush was meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair in Northern Ireland, was broadcast at 6:00 p.m. Baghdad time April 10 on the Iraqi state-owned television station that for decades was controlled by the Saddam Hussein regime.

It was also carried on television and radio networks in the United States and Europe.

The Baghdad television station is now controlled by coalition military forces, who will begin broadcasting news, official statements dubbed in Arabic, footage of events, and interviews with Iraqis and influential scholars each evening.

Following is the White House text of the Bush message:

MESSAGE TO THE IRAQI PEOPLE FROM THE U.S.  
PRESIDENT, GEORGE W. BUSH  
THURSDAY 10 APRIL 2003

This is George W. Bush, the President of the United States. At this moment, the regime of Saddam Hussein is being removed from power, and a long era of fear and cruelty is ending. American and coalition forces are now operating inside Baghdad -- and we will not stop until Saddam's corrupt gang is gone. The government of Iraq, and the future of your country, will soon belong to you.

The goals of our coalition are clear and limited. We will end a brutal regime, whose aggression and weapons of mass destruction make it a unique threat to the world. Coalition forces will help maintain law and order, so that Iraqis can live in security. We will respect your great religious traditions, whose principles of equality and compassion are essential to Iraq's future. We will help you build a peaceful and representative government that protects the rights of all citizens. And then our military forces will leave. Iraq will go forward as a unified, independent and sovereign nation that has regained a respected place in the world.

The United States and its coalition partners respect the people of Iraq. We are taking unprecedented measures to spare the lives of innocent Iraqi citizens, and are beginning to deliver food, water and medicine to those in need. Our only enemy is Saddam's brutal regime -- and that regime is your enemy as well.

In the new era that is coming to Iraq, your country will no longer be held captive to the will of a cruel dictator. You will be free to build a better life, instead of building more palaces for Saddam and his sons, free to pursue economic prosperity without the hardship of economic sanctions, free to travel and speak up your mind, free to join in the political affairs of Iraq. And all the people who make up your country -- Kurds, Shi'a, Turkomans, Sunnis and others -- will be free of the terrible persecution that so many have endured.

The nightmare that Saddam Hussein has brought to your nation will soon be over. You are a good and gifted people -- the heirs of a great civilization that contributes to all humanity. You deserve better than tyranny and corruption and torture chambers. You deserve to live as free people. And I assure every citizen of Iraq: your nation will soon be free.

Thank you.

U.S. HOPES FOR ACTIVE EUROPEAN ROLE IN IRAQ,  
POWELL SAYS

Secretary of State interviewed by NOS Dutch  
Television

The United States hopes all of Europe will participate in the reconstruction, rebuilding and stability efforts in Iraq, Secretary of State Colin Powell said April 10 in an interview with NOS Dutch Television.

Citing the need for peacekeeping forces, humanitarian aid, and the reconstruction of hospitals and schools, Powell said: "There will be a great deal to do, and I hope that Europe will play an active role."

While acknowledging the strong differences of opinion in the debate preceding the war in Iraq, Powell urged Europeans to "look to the future."

"Now is the time for all of us to think what is best for the Iraqi people and how can we, as an international community, but especially every member of the European community, what can we do to help the Iraqi people," he said.

Powell also thanked the government and people of the Netherlands for their support in Afghanistan as well as in the coalition. "The Dutch forces are playing an incredible role," he said. "They're playing a leadership role in Afghanistan. And I think there will be a role for them to play here [in Iraq] as well, to whatever extent the Dutch people wish to play."

SECRETARY OF STATE COLIN POWELL URGES AN END  
TO REPRESSION IN CUBA

Calls on Fidel Castro to release jailed dissidents

Secretary of State Colin Powell, describing the Cuban government's recent crackdown on dissidents as "the most significant act of political repression in decades" by Cuba, issued a formal statement April 10 urging Cuban President Fidel Castro to "end this despicable repression" and free the jailed dissidents.

Following is the text of Powell's statement:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesman April 10, 2003

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE COLIN L. POWELL

End the Repression in Cuba

In recent days, the Cuban government has undertaken the most significant act of political repression in decades. Nearly 80 representatives of a growing and truly independent civil society have been arrested, convicted and sentenced to lengthy prison terms in summary, secret trials. Their only crime was seeking basic human rights and freedoms.

We call on Castro to end this despicable repression and free these prisoners of conscience. The United States and the international community will be unrelenting in our insistence that Cubans who seek peaceful change be permitted to do so. We are working with our partners on the Human Rights Commission in Geneva to develop a resolution that condemns Cuba's abysmal human rights performance in the strongest possible terms.

U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS CHIEF DISTURBED BY TRIALS OF CUBAN DISSIDENTS

Joins international community in denouncing stifling of dissent

By Eric Green  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- A United Nations human rights officer has joined the international outcry over the recent arrests and trials of nearly 100 persons in Cuba, who are charged by the Cuban government with alleged crimes against state security.

In an April 9 statement, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Sergio Vieira de Mello voiced "disquiet" regarding the lengthy prison sentences defendants had received after less than a week on trial. Prosecutors sought prison sentences of 15 years to life for the defendants.

"There are questions about the fairness of such expedited proceedings, which have been closed to the public and observers, and I am calling for transparency," said Vieira de Mello. He added that the Cuban government must ensure that the accused "benefit from due process, including the right to adequate defense."

Another U.N. official, Koichiro Matsuura, director-general of that body's Educational, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), said the trials against Cuban dissidents represented a serious infringement of the right to freedom of expression and other basic rights recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which UNESCO was created to uphold.

Matsuura said UNESCO had received reports that the Cuban defendants did not have access to proper legal counsel and that international observers and media were barred from the proceedings.

The Organization of American States (OAS) said the judicial proceedings in Cuba are directly linked to activities regarding the "exercise of the right to freedom of expression and information."

OAS Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression Eduardo Bertoni said April 4 that the Cuban regime of Fidel Castro continues to use "tactics of intimidation and repression" to put further pressure on journalists and dissidents "to prevent them from criticizing the government."

The U.S. Congress and the Bush Administration have also strongly criticized the events occurring in Cuba. The House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a resolution April 8 that condemned "systematic" human rights violations in Cuba, and called for the immediate release of all political prisoners and for free elections in that Caribbean nation.

The resolution, approved by a vote of 414 to 0, with 11 members voting "present," said Cuba's government continued to repress all peaceful attempts by the Cuban people to bring democratic change to the island by denying universally recognized liberties, including freedom of speech, press, and assembly.

That resolution followed the U.S. State Department's report on Cuba's human rights record. In its 2002 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, issued March 31, the Department said the Castro regime continues to

harass, threaten, arbitrarily arrest, detain, imprison, and defame journalists and other members of independent professional associations.

State Department Deputy Spokesman Phil Reeker has characterized the trials in Cuba as Stalinist tactics played out in a “kangaroo court.”

“The Castro regime’s actions are the most despicable act of political repression in the Americas in a decade,” Reeker said.

Meanwhile, news reports said the European Union was calling for the immediate release of those who have been jailed in Cuba’s latest crackdown on dissidents, while the government of Germany denounced the Cuban trials for flagrantly breaching “the most basic elements of the rule of law and human rights.”

Amnesty International said the severe sentences handed down against the Cuban dissidents are an “appalling development.” In an April 8 statement, the organization said the sentences signal a “giant step backward for human rights” and that the dissidents were sentenced after “manifestly unfair trials conducted in haste and secrecy.”

The Cuban government “must ensure that no one is imprisoned for the non-violent exercise of their right to freedom of association,” said Amnesty International.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said it deplores the convictions of 28 independent Cuban journalists who were detained since Cuba’s government began arresting dissidents March 18.

“We were deeply concerned when the Cuban government took advantage of international events to launch this crackdown on the press last month,” said the CPJ in an April 9 statement. The CPJ added that “our concern turned to outrage when we learned that almost 30 journalists have been sentenced to lengthy jail terms for merely expressing their views.”

The Miami-based Inter-American Press Association also denounced the Cuban government for violating human rights and said it has urged the United Nations to intercede in what the group calls “one of the worst abuses committed in recent times against a nation’s civil society.”

The Association, which represents 1,300 member newspapers in the Western Hemisphere, said in an April 7

statement that the journalists who have been jailed for the “mere offense of carrying out their mission to report the news may be sure that we will continue in our determination to denounce the brutal Cuban regime, which does not tolerate even minimal criticism and remains in power on the basis of violation of the Cuban people’s fundamental rights.”

Another group, Human Rights Watch, said the sentences imposed against the Cuban dissidents are “unjustified and draconian,” adding that Cuba is “flouting fundamental human rights norms.”

The New York-based group called it “perverse” that Cuba is engaged in a massive crackdown against dissidents at the same time the United Nations Commission on Human Rights is holding its annual six-week session in Geneva, Switzerland, where the human rights situation in Cuba is being examined. That commission, said Human Rights Watch in an April 7 statement, “must condemn these abuses [in Cuba] and do so strongly and unequivocally.”

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**Please Note:** Most texts and transcripts mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage [www.usmission.ch](http://www.usmission.ch). Select “Washington File” from the drop-down menu under “News.”